Foster Corrects the N.Y. Times on Draft Program of Communist Party

William Z. Foster yesterday mailed a letter to the New York Times which we print below.

The letter, written on March 6, was sent in protest of an article in the Times by Will Harbison on the Constitution of the Draft Group of the Communist Party-The American Way to Jobs, Democracy and Peace, issued by its national committee.

In protest of the rights of minority political opinions to be made respectable, he told the Times that "in the absence of a constitutional provision for the expression of the opinion of the group, the Times is setting up a precedent for the suppression of the expression of a minority opinion." He further draws attention to the fact that the Constitution of the Draft Group of the Communist Party was published in its entirety in the Times on March 4.

The Times has never before included a pamphlet of this kind, and Foster admits that it was a mistake. The Times reprinted it was because of the "incredible statements of the primary editors of the Times," who failed to "carry the unity of all democratic-minded, peace-desiring people cutting across party and political lines and without regard to ideological differences. It should be emphasized that this end can be promoted only by open-minded and courageous editors, to which, indeed, the Draft Program contributes. It indicates that we hold from the readers the essential right of action in a report which presumes to present it, in a disinterested and unbiased way to the public and to honest journalism.

Since, as I have said, practically the entire program of the Draft Group is an expression of the views of the group, I do not consider it possible to confine the codification of the entire program to an article. It will do so, if adequate space is made available to me in your paper. Here let me point to the central big issue which your headline writer emphasized by using the phrase "Draft Group State a Program."

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